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County Sheriff Abbott named Michigan Sheriff of the Year

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has announced that Sheriff Daniel Abbott has been selected as the 2025 Sheriff of the Year by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA). Sheriff Abbott is the recipient of the Terrence L. Jungel Sheriff of the Year Award, an honor that recognizes exceptional leadership, dedication, and service within the law enforcement community. Sheriff Abbott, left, is shown with Van Buren County Undersheriff Casey Davis.

Photo courtesy/Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

Graham receives state medal for life-saving effort

Each year, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office submits several incidents to the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA) for consideration by the voting committee. This year, at the recently held MSA Conference, Sergeant Paul Graham, far left, was awarded the MSA Distinguished Service Medal for his heroic, life-saving actions during a house fire. The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office said of Graham's award, "Truly outstanding work and bravery." Sgt. Graham is shown with Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott, center, and at far right, Undersheriff Casey Davis. Sheriff Abbott was named the MSA Sheriff of the Year.

Photo courtesy/Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

Mattawan Man had five uncles serve in World War II

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

MATTAWAN - Longtime Mattawan resident Dave Ballinger knows firsthand the meaning of service to your country as he had five uncles who served during World War II.

It was Ballinger's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Koole, Sr., who resided in Kalamazoo and had a family of nine children, eight sons and one daughter. Five of those sons were all stationed in the service, with four stationed overseas, according to a May 1944 newspaper article that Ballinger has kept over the years.

The five included Sgt. Orrin T. Koole, 28, serving with the United States signal battalion in England; Gunner's Mate John Edward Koole, 33, 16 months with the Atlantic fleet, Pfc. Peter Koole 22, who was stationed somewhere in the South Pacific; Apprentice Seaman William A. Koole 19, Great Lakes Naval Training Station and Seaman Gerald Koole, Jr., 21,aboard a U.S. battleship in the Pacific.

Ballinger said Sgt. Orrin T. Koole was the first one to enter the service. One week after Pearl Harbor, Koole's travels found him headed to Camp Crowder, Mo., for basic training. Ballinger said he was a graduate of Lincoln and Kalamazoo Central high schools. Prior to enlisting, he had been employed by Fuller Manufacturing Company. Koole's wife, Dorothy, resided in Joplin, Mo.

Pfc. Peter M. Koole entered the service on Feb. 27, 1942, and at the time, he had been in the South Pacific for more than two years. Koole was the second in the family to enlist.

Gunner's Mate John E. Koole enlisted in the U.S. Navy April 29, 1942. He was formerly employed by Fuller Manufacturing Company. He received his basic training at Great Lakes Ill. and was assigned to the Atlantic fleet.

Gerald Koole, Jr., was a seaman, second class, and served aboard a US battleship somewhere in the Pacific. He entered the service on Sept. 16, 1943, and received his basic training at Great Lakes, Ill. Koole was a former Lincoln and Kalamazoo high school student. Prior to entering the service, he had been employed by the Bender and Lowden Motor Freight Company.

William A. Koole, the youngest of the five Koole brothers in the service, at the time, was receiving his basic training at Great Lakes, Ill. He formerly attended Lincoln and Kalamazoo Central high school. He had been employed in war work in Lansing, prior to enlisting in the Navy in April 29, 1944.

George M. Koole worked in Lansing during that time but resided in Kalamazoo.

A daughter, Dave Ballinger's mother, Claudine Koole Ballinger, was engaged in war work in Lansing.

Two younger brothers, Glenn, 14, and Donald, 10, rounded out the family of nine children.

Belgium newspaper staff visit county museum, Lawton and Mattawan for upcoming story

Patrick Vincent, a reporter, and Robin Fasseur, a photographer, both employed by the Gazet van Antwerpen, the newspaper of the city and province of Antwerpen, Belgium, traveled to Van Buren County on Sunday and Monday where they visited and took photos at the Van Buren County Museum, Hartford, where they met with Sandy Merchant, museum president, the Antwerp Township Hall and Lawton Village Hall. While at the Antwerp Township Hall, the two met with Bonnie Osborne, Antwerp Township treasurer, and Chantel Reyna, Antwerp Township clerk. Traveling to Lawton, the two met with Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg. The two are visiting seven places in the United States that have the names and places in their city and province. Hoboken, New Jersey; Westerlo and Antwerp, New York; Antwerp, Ohio; Antwerp, Mich; Belgium and Kiel Wisconsin. The two are developing a series of stories during the summer months.

Courier-Leader photos/ Paul Garrod

Riverfront concert series returns

By James Windell

The Riverfront Concert Series returns for a summer of free music concerts at Riverfront Park on the Black River starting on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Every Thursday evening beginning at 7:00 pm there will be an open-air concert that features a variety of musical groups and bands.

"We have some returning favorites this year," says Lotte Resek, Executive Director of Foundry Hall, "and these will be bands that people like." She says one favorite group is the Kevin McDonald House Band. "They've played at every single concert since the concerts began in 2002," Resek says.

The opening concert on June 19 will feature NauticBound, which has been referred to as Michigan's premier beach party-dance band. NauticBound's playlist includes songs from K.C. and the Sunshine Band as well as Bruno Mars.

Other bands scheduled to perform include Kevin Jones and Tenth World, a jazz band, on June 26, the Kevin McDaniel House Band, which plays classic rock n' roll, on July 10, and Patty PerShayla on July 17. "She's a real rock 'n' roller," says Resek, "and she'll be a lot of fun."

All in all, Resek says about the series, "There will be a good variety of music and while we want to showcase local music, we will bring in new bands from outside of the area as well."

Resek points out that this year there will be pre-concert activities for families provided by non-profit organizations. "These will go from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, "Resek says, "and will include arts and crafts and a petting zoo. The Michigan Maritime Museum will put on the pre-concert activities on June 19."

The 2025 Riverfront Concert Series is presented by the City of South Haven and Foundry Hall. The concerts take place at Riverfront Park, 345 Water Street, starting at 7:00 pm. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will move to the Huron Street Pavilion.

"We invite people to come to the park for a picnic, bring your children, and even your dog," Resek says. "We have a few chairs to borrow, but not a great many so bring your own."

The concert series is supported by the South Haven Area Community Foundation and several other sponsors such as the South Pier Creamery, Lennon Miller, PLC, Black River Barn, Woodham's Ford Lincoln, Value Market Convenience Stores, Hardt Insurance and Huntree Nursery.

South Haven resident producing County Road 689 for PBS series

By James Windell

Rob Byrd, an Emmy Award winning video producer, is developing County Road 689 as a new PBS-TV series.

The second show in the new series, which will air on WNIT-TV, a PBS station in South Bend, Indiana, was recorded at Hearts Gathering Retreat Center, a venue on M-140 in South Haven on May 22, 2025. In front of a live audience, this second show featured the local county-rock band Black River Band.

"We will be featuring local bands as well as bands from other parts of Michigan and even some from out of town," Byrd said in a recent interview. "Our next show in June will be a Jimi Hendrix tribute." That show will be recorded at Mill Hall in Bangor.

Byrd, who grew up in South Haven and still makes his home in the area, won an Emmy for his video of the Hope College Christmas Vespers in 2003. The next year he was nominated for another Emmy for a one-hour documentary chronicling the life of Gerald R. Ford entitled "Time & Chance."

Byrd, who was a standout baseball player while at South Haven High School, attended Ferris State University with the intention of continuing to play baseball. Forced to pick a major, he thought he might like TV and Audio-Visual Production. When he was told by a professor that a video project he completed was one of the best the instructor had seen in 35 years, Byrd thought he had found his niche. "That changed everything for me," he says. "Now if it doesn't have video involved with it, I don't want to do it." And that's where Moondog Productions comes in.

After working as a producer at WGVU-TV in Grand Rapids, he left to form Moondog Productions. With headquarters in South Haven, Moondog Productions does video projects of various kinds as well as documentaries and videos for TV – such as County Road 689. "I love shooting music videos," Byrd says. And he adds that to produce a 30-minute show like County Road 689, he will spend 60 to 80 hours editing the raw video footage captured by his crew using 10 cameras.

Locally, Byrd has produced videos for various businesses and organizations, including

We Care and Van Buren Area Senior Services.

Currently besides working on the County Road 689 series, which he says is "exciting because it is an old idea finally coming to fruition," Byrd has produced two documentaries on the House of David Baseball Team. He is also the host of a Saturday morning talk show that airs from 6:00 to 8:00 am on COZY-FM at 103.7 called the Moondog Show.

Thinking about County Road 689, Byrd says it would be his dream to bring this to a commercial production. "I'd like it to play in most PBS-TV stations around the country."

Tall ship released from harbor after dredging help

After being trapped in the South Haven harbor for over a month due to low water levels, the tall ship Friends Good Will, with some dredging help, was able to navigate out onto Lake Michigan this past weekend. Friends Good Will, the flagship of the Michigan Maritime Museum, is a replica of a top sail merchant ship that plied the waters of the Great Lakes in the early 19th century. The ship was unable to make its annual sojourn to Holland's Tulip Time festival in early May, but is now back to providing regular daily excursions on the Big Lake.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Two escape burning house trailer unharmed

Photos courtesy South Haven Area Emergency Services. Two occupants safely escaped a burning travel trailer in Casco Township of Allegan County early Sunday morning. South Haven Area Emergency Services responded at 4:45 a.m. to 68th Street near 102nd Avenue. The trailer was fully engulfed in fire upon arrival. Firefighters were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to other nearby structures. SHAES EMS provided aid to the occupants on scene. The American Red Cross was requested to provide assistance.

Sidewalk replacement near Maple Lake Amphitheatre underway

A sidewalk replacement is currently underway near the Maple Lake Amphitheatre in Paw Paw. The project will involve the removal of the sidewalk squares where commemorative bricks are inset. Due to age and, in some areas, damage, the sidewalk in this area has become a trip and fall hazard. The Village of Paw Paw will not be disposing of the bricks. The bricks are intended to be removed, cleaned and re-purposed in an appropriate and respectful manner in the near future.
Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Maple Island Pedestrian Bridge to be replaced

The Maple Island Pedestrian Bridge will be removed and replaced with a new bridge this summer. The anticipated start is Monday, July 7. Maple Island Park will be closed for the duration of the project, which is anticipated to run through October. The parking lot across the street from the bridge will also be closed, as it will be used for equipment staging. There will be a period of approximately 10 days to 2 weeks during the project where there will be noise from pile driving. The new bridge pilings must be driven 30 feet below the lakebed. This activity will be limited to daytime hours and not at all on Sundays.

Courier-Leader photos/ Paul Garrod

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Republicans rally in Decatur: Lincoln Day Dinner brings leading candidates

The Van Buren County Republican Party held its annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday, May 31, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Decatur. Linda Meenan, second from right, was named Van Buren County Republican Woman of the Year. Meenan serves as secretary of Van Buren County Republican Women. Shown at far right is Congressman Bill Huizenga, who was a guest speaker at the event. Shown at far left is Lorriane Root, president of Van Buren County Republican Women and secretary of Republican Women's Federation of Michigan, and Robyn Peake, president of Republican Women's Federation of Michigan and a member and past president of Van Buren County Republican Women. The event brought together grassroots supporters and key Republican figures from across Michigan to discuss the future of the state and the nation.

DECATUR - The Van Buren County Republican Party held its annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday, May 31, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Decatur. The event brought together grassroots supporters and key Republican figures from across Michigan to discuss the future of the state and the nation.

Congressman Bill Huizenga delivered a featured update on the "Big Beautiful Bill," legislation he championed in Congress. Huizenga emphasized that the bill played a critical role in preventing a looming tax hike that would have taken effect with the scheduled expiration of the 2017 Trump tax cuts. "This bill protects Michigan families and small businesses," Huizenga said, "and ensures that the working middle class continues to benefit from the lower tax rates they've relied on since 2017."

United States Senate candidate Mike Rogers addressed the enthusiastic crowd, sharing his campaign message centered on national security, economic freedom, and restoring conservative leadership in Washington. "Michigan deserves a senator who knows how to lead in tough times," Rogers said, urging the crowd to stay engaged and energized for 2026.

Gubernatorial candidate and former Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox delivered a forceful address, pledging to rip out the bureaucracy that's choking Michigan's economy and restore law and order with unapologetic clarity. With a proven record of fighting corruption and standing up for victims, Cox laid out a bold platform to cut burdensome regulations, back law enforcement, and champion Michigan's farmers, manufacturers, and working-class communities. "Lansing is broken - run by elites who've forgotten who they work for," Cox declared. "We're going to bring back common sense, defend our values, and make Michigan work for the people again."

Anthony Hudson, a working-class conservative and proud trucker, took the stage as a Republican candidate for governor with a message rooted in real-life experience. Hudson called for leadership that's grounded in grit, not political privilege. "We don't need more career politicians," Hudson said. "We need a governor who knows what it's like to punch a clock, pay the bills, and fight for the future of working families - and it's time we had someone behind the wheel who knows the road."

Kevin Kijewski, candidate for Michigan Attorney General, served as the keynote speaker. Kijewski strongly criticized what he described as current Attorney General Dana Nessel's "lawfare" tactics against Republicans. He cited ongoing legal actions targeting Republican electors and local party leaders as examples of politically motivated prosecutions. "No citizen should fear weaponized justice based on their political beliefs," he stated, pledging to restore impartiality and integrity to the Attorney General's office if elected.

With standing ovations and spirited speeches, the 2025 Lincoln Day Dinner marked more than just a campaign season kickoff - it served as a defining transition for Republicans aiming to be the party of the everyman. From defending working families against tax hikes to standing up for individual rights and community values, the evening showcased a movement grounded not in elites, but in everyday Michiganders. The message was clear: the Republican Party is reclaiming its mantle as the voice of the people.

Area Special Olympians compete in state summer games

Special Olympians travel for competition

Police Escort for Special Olympians given

Special Olympians from Area 17 (Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass counties) recently competed in the State Summer Games in Mount Pleasant, MI. The 68 athletes brought home 29 gold,45 silver, and 30 bronze medals, as well as 31 fourth through seventh place medals. The athletes, along with coaches and parents, were served lunch by the Paw Paw Knights of Columbus at their Paw Paw hall before their trip to the games. Following the luncheon, area public safety departments gave the Special Olympians an escort through downtown Paw Paw as they made their way to Interstate 94. The KOC expressed its thanks to the Paw Paw Fire and Police departments, as well as Van Buren County and Berrien County sheriff departments, and the Michigan State Police (MSP) for helping make it a special day for the team. The KOC also expressed thanks to Family Fare, Paw Paw, for its donation to the lunch. "The Special Olympics program only succeeds with the dedication of the coaches, volunteers and parents, as well as the great support from the community," said Phil Hover, KOC spokesperson. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Museum talk to focus on county sheriffs since 1837

HARTFORD - Tyler Sleep will talk about the history of sheriffs in Van Buren County since 1837 on June 15, at 2 pm, at the Van Buren County Historical Museum, 58471 Red Arrow Highway, Hartford.

"It's a lot to cover", Sleep admits, "with 43 sheriffs, and many more undersheriffs, and many, many, more deputies. I have a collection of photos, of nearly every sheriff, and most of the undersheriffs, as well as an endless collection of newspaper articles. I do the genealogy of each person and see how they connect. I find each of the burial sites as well."

Sleep has worked in law enforcement for over 20 years, currently as a sheriff's deputy in Calhoun County with the Road Patrol Division, and earlier in the cities of Hartford and Bangor, among others. Since 2015, Sleep has been researching and talking to groups about local law enforcement history.

"What people need to know about my talk is that times change," Sleep said. "It is fascinating to see where we started and where we are now." For example, at one time, the sheriff's wife, unpaid, cooked meals for the inmates on top of cleaning cells and did inmates' laundry. By the 1970s, however, Mrs. Stump, then the current sheriff's wife, was criticized for being paid once as the head cook and taking another wage for inmates' laundry.

The 44-room Van Buren County Historical Museum is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from noon to 5 p.m. with additional hours available for private tours, parties, meetings, and special events like Tyler Sleep's talk on the history of county sheriffs.

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SH Car Show benefits Hunt for the Cure

The 24th annual Kruisin for Kylie Festival of Cars kicked off the summer season in downtown South Haven on Saturday. The convergence of classic and modern autos attracted enthusiasts from around the state. Proceeds from the event benefit Hunt for the Cure, a Michigan-based organization dedicated to finding a cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

Photos by Tom Renner

Nearly 3,200 911 calls reported for month of May

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Central Dispatch had 3,193 911 calls in the month of May, bringing the total for the year to 13,256. Dispatch had 4,841 calls come in on a non-emergency line, making the total for the year be at 34,571. Uniform Response had 382 traffic stops in May, bringing the total for the year to 13,256. Uniform Response handled 913 calls for service in May, bringing the total number of calls for the year to 4,015.

Sgt. Paul Graham was honored at the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA) Conference this past week receiving the Distinguished Service Medal. "He earned the honor by pulling an individual out of a burning house, hence saving that individual's life while truly putting his life on the line. The victim in that incident was unable to walk," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a prowler complaint in Bloomingdale Township. "The homeowner saw two people casing his garage and found they had moved a grill while doing so. They ran off and were unable to be located," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in the City of Bangor. Deputies found that the female suspect assaulted her long-time boyfriend. The female was lodged for the incident.

"I attended the MSA Conference this past week and was honored to be selected and receive the Terrence L. Jungel Sheriff of the Year Award. It was very humbling and an honor to be able to represent Van Buren County for this," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our office just launched the first ever Facebook page for the overall office. If you'd like to follow it, it's listed as Van Buren County Michigan Sheriff's Office.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in the Village of Lawrence. Deputies found that the husband physically assaulted and choked his wife. She was able to jump out a window and call for help. He was lodged for the incident.

Uniform Response handled several traffic crashes throughout the county. They ranged from car versus deer, vehicles in ditches, to car versus car. Deputies also handled several domestic violence calls throughout the county with several people being lodged from them.

2025 Sunflower Film Festival passes now on sale

PAW PAW - The Sunflower Film Festival has announced that full festival and

single day passes are now available for purchase at The Lucky Wolf's website at: theluckywolfpawpaw.com.

Full schedule and descriptions are available to view at the festival website at: sunflowerfilmfest.org/schedule. Taking place June 19 - 22, at the Lucky Wolf, this year's festival will honor the life and legacy of India Deibler-Love, whose spirit continues to inspire the event and the work of the India Love Sunflower Foundation. The annual festival is the foundation's flagship event.

Unlock the entire festival experience! A full festival pass allows an individual all-access ticket to every feature film, shorts block, panel, music performance, and all other official programming throughout all four days of the festival. No exceptions. The cost is $30 (plus processing fees).

A single day pass unlocks access to all scheduled programming on any single day from June 19-22. The price is $10 (plus processing fees).

A single day pass grants access to all festival programming on one full day of the individual's choice: Thursday, June 19, Friday, June 20, Saturday, June 21, or Sunday, June 22.

For all information related to pass offerings and more, visit the official 2025 festival site: sunflowerfilmfest.org.

The Sunflower Film Festival is an annual, multi-day event organized by the India Love Sunflower Foundation that harnesses the power of storytelling to foster conversations around mental health, resilience, and community connection. Established to honor the life and legacy of India Deibler-Love, the festival brings together filmmakers, artists, and audiences for a powerful lineup of films, interactive panels, and live musical performances. As the flagship event of the India Love Sunflower Foundation, it serves as a vibrant platform for raising awareness, inspiring hope, and building connections within the community.

The India Love Sunflower Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 whose purpose is: "To help remove the stigma around mental health by raising awareness and providing assistance, support, resources, and education to individuals, families, and communities in need."

The foundation was established in honor of India Summer Deibler-Love who was a much beloved daughter, sister, niece, cousin, granddaughter, wife, mother, friend and inspiration to many. Tragically, India died by suicide on Nov. 19, 2023.

The festival is a program of the nonprofit India Love Sunflower Foundation. To date 2025 Festival sponsors include: Destination Paw Paw, Jerry Mitchell, Knotek Law Office, PLC, Village of Paw Paw, and Land of Light Community; with support from: Luc's Light, Walmart, St. Julian

Winery, Wonder Wheel Productions, and J. Adam Bennett. The support of these organizations helps offset the festival's costs.

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VIEWPOINT

My father, my hero

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

(I wrote this a few years ago but wanted share it again. Heck I might share this column over and over for years to come. The man meant so much to me)

This week I give pause to reflect on my hero, my father. Although he was buried several years ago, there isn't a day I don't think about him, and this week I have conjured up dozens of great moments he and I have shared.

I only hope I have been half the man and three quarters of the father, my dad was. He was the most unselfish, even-tempered person I have ever known. Everyone who encountered him, came away impressed with his knowledge and thoughtfulness.

As an elected official, and he was for 30 years, enduring and never losing 14 elections, my father was very different from the current breed of politicians. Heck he probably would not have survived this day and age of divisive politics.

He was by nature an introvert. He rarely spoke but when he did people listened. And his well thought out suggestions and opinions were welcomed by all. His political motivations were conciliatory rather than combative. He for the most part disregarded political affiliation and broke bread and made legislation with members of both sides of the aisle.

After politics, after newspaper publishing, after a few years of daily golf, it was his role of caregiver that I most admire him for. My mother was suffering from dementia and slowly but surely, year after year, it became worse to the point he had to give up golf, give up socializing, to essentially take care of her 24-7.

Not I or my four siblings realized my mother was failing so quickly. None of us lived near their Florida home, and when we made the trip to visit once or twice a year, she seemed okay. Not until after his death and my sister tried to take her in, did we realize the progression of her dementia. My father never let on nor did he ever complain.

But that was him. No complaints, no temper tantrums and always happy despite how dire the situation.

It just occurred to me I never heard the man use a swear word. Never ever. Of course it was rare to hear his voice. I remember as a 15-year-old going to my first deer camp. It was a 200-mile drive. That drive seemed like it was 2000 miles because my father never said a word. Not one word on that 200-mile journey.

But that was just him. He would rather let his actions do the talking. And as a newspaperman and a politician he accomplished more than most people. Way back when he purchased a newspaper that was printed on a mimeograph machine and turned it in to a full-fledged weekly must read product. In politics he enjoyed the company of presidents as he rose to become chairperson of the National Association of Counties.

What he lacked in oratorical skills he more than made up in sheer will, determination and hard work. No one worked harder. I can remember as a little kid never seeing my dad on Wednesday nights. That was the night he printed his newspaper and it was an all-night process. He worked it alone, running his little press, week after week, hour after hour.

I marvel at those memories now. I too am a hard worker and complain very little. I don't like to swear, and people are nervous around me because I don't talk much. There is no question I am my father's son. I couldn't be prouder. He was a hero to me and others. I hope I can be the same for my son.

Happy Father's Day to all of us out there who try to make life better for our families. You deserve a toast.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

I've been friends with a now-retired math professor from a small Michigan college for more than 30 years.

We were introduced by Walt, a mutual friend who, like us, enjoyed Sam Campbell's nature writing. Walt — an old-fashioned newsman who hammered out stories on a manual Remington typewriter augmented by Whiteout and carbon paper, was a longtime friend of Sam's.

One day he wrote and gave me the professor's name and address, and said we should get in touch because she was writing a biography of Campbell.

Soon after she hung up her academic cap and gown, the professor became a lay chaplain at a nearby retirement community. Being a devout Christian who has been slowly migrating toward the Anglicans, she has been thinking ("discerning," as it is called in many churches) the possibility of ordained ministry.

There is nothing easy about ordination in most mainline churches. It is expensive, time-consuming sometimes the future looks rather bleak. Many congregations are declining, and it is almost impossible for the smaller ones to be self-sustaining, much less afford a full-time minister.

We have corresponded on those topics, then made a leap back to Campbell's books and essays to find encouragement.

Maybe you have watched Rich Steves, the perpetually enthusiastic host of international travel television programs. He also leads trips to various places around the world. Suffice it to note Campbell was an early version of him.

He began his work as a promoter and travel writer for the old Chicago and Northwestern Railroads. He wrote some of their advertising, took tours to national parks and during the off-season ventured around the country with his travelogues of the wilderness.

Campbell used some of his money to buy a small island in northern Wisconsin. There, beginning in the early 1940s until his death in 1961, he wrote a series of books devoured by young readers.

He was working and promoting rail travel to resorts and national parks in the midst of the Great Depression. He took his films on tour during that same era, charging a quarter or 50 cents for admission.

When war broke out in December 1941, Campbell's leisure travel came to an end. He retreated to his cabin, began writing his stories in the middle of the war, and got them published even when paper was rationed.

A few years later, in the midst of the Red Scare and Korean War, he wrote "Nature's Messages" about the wisdom people can find in the wilderness.

More than anything else, Campbell was able to step away from financial, social and political problems plus the two wars to put his emphasis on joy and hope. The problems and uncertainties of the world are never mentioned in his writings, even though they were on everyone's mind.

In one of his books Hi-Bib, a teenage boy, was discouraged by the world around him. He was morose, listless and had lost joy in life. All things considered but never mentioned, was his fear of a very bleak looking world.

Gradually, through spending time learning the lessons of nature, Hi-Bub comes out of his depression.

Another lesson turns up in "Beloved Rascals" where the Campbells go to the Canadian Rockies to film movies for a future program. There, they encounter a bus driver who is wonderfully cheerful.

Sam points out that the driver has been on the same route for years, answers the same questions, helps people in and out of the bus and is perpetually enthusiastic. "How do you do it?" he asked the fellow.

The driver says he reminds himself every morning that some of his passengers have saved their money for years for this trip of a lifetime, so he wants to do everything he can to make it a wonderful experience. Meanwhile, other passengers may be taking their last holidays and he wants to create great memories for them and their family.

Sam wrote about canoe trips to the north country and the fun the group had, even in the drenching rain. He told fun tales about raccoons that had a battle with their own reflection in a mirror, a crow that had been hurt in a forest fire and more.

In short, he told tales of people finding and making their own fun, even when the rest of the world was going to You-Know-Where.

That is the lesson for today. Pick any era in history starting with the cave-dwellers and without much effort we can find plenty to gripe about. No time was ever perfect, and there were big dump-truck loads of hurt and pain all around.

The other way is to look around and find the goodness in life. We learned that from a canoe trip where the weather turned filthy, the Campbells' party spent a day sitting underneath up-turned canoes to keep dry and spent their hours by singing together.

My favorite story comes from "Nature's Message" where Campbell wrote about his favorite visitor. A guest came to his island cottage, singing as he paddled his canoe across the lake.

Over the next days they ran into one challenge after another — a boat motor that wouldn't start, mosquitoes and more. The guest continued to sing and have a good time. When he had to return to the city, Sam's guest sang as he paddled to the other shore.

We need more writers like Campbell who can find goodness in so many places, and more people to put those ideas into practice.

OBITUARY

Keith G. Welburn

Keith G. Welburn, 97, of Lawton, went to be with his Lord peacefully on Saturday, June 7, 2025, in Lawton.

Keith will be deeply missed but forever remembered by his family and friends.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Saturday, July 19, from 11 a.m. to noon at Lawton Evangelical Church, 425 S. Nursery St., Lawton. A memorial service will be held at noon, followed by a luncheon at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the CareShare Fund at Lawton Evangelical Church, 425 S. Nursery St., Lawton, MI, 49065.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Letter Writer's facts are fiction"

Dear Editor:

Annie Louis must've written that letter with a thesaurus in one hand and MSNBC in the other. I haven't seen that much projection since my last PowerPoint presentation.

Douglas Nelson
HARTFORD

Lawrence Vacation Bible School Planned

LAWRENCE - The Lawrence United Methodist Church, 122 S. Exchange St., will hold Vacation Bible School, during the week of June 23 through June 27. Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m., followed by VBS's Wonder Junction from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is open to ages 3 to adults.

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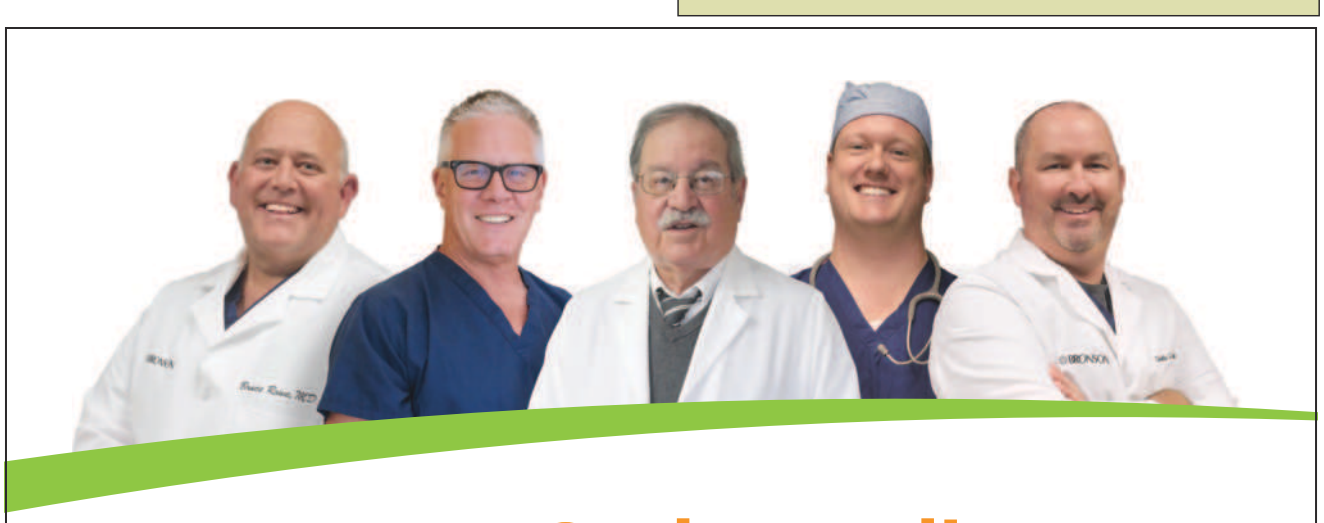

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SPORTS

Mattawan lacrosse falls in semifinals

Mattawan lacrosse team made it to the state semifinals

By John Raffel

MATTAWAN — The dream season for Mattawan's boys lacrosse team came to an end for coach Erik Frank's Wildcats in a 20-11 loss to Detroit Country Day on June 3

Country Day lost to East Grand Rapids 15-10 in the title game.

Mattawan's final season record was 18-2.

"Overall we came out with a good game plan and executed in the first quarter," Frank said. "Because of that we had the lead. Then we had a rough second quarter. They made some adjustments and we made mistakes. The third and fourth quarter we basically tied them going goal for goal.

"Our goal was to get to the state semifinals and see what happens. The boys were playing hard all season long and not quitting and showing people why we should be there. It's the farthest we have gone in the MHSAA tournament."

Vince Vale led Mattawan in scoring in the title game. Brody Hergott led the team in scoring all season.

Mattawan graduates nine seniors.

Paw Paw girls softball wins regional title

The 2025 Paw Paw regional championship softball team.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's girls softball team improved its record to 35-3 with victories of 6-3 over Edwardsburg and 6-2 over Wayland on Saturday to win the regional title.

In the first game, Elizabeth Vanderburg smacked a solo home run in the bottom of the third. Aliya Edson and Bella Clemons had singles in the bottom of the sixth to help Paw Paw take a 6-3 lead.

Lauren Mackellar was the winning pitcher. She gave up six hits and three runs, inching two earned, over seven innings, striking out five and walking two.

Paw Paw had 12 hits Bella Clemons had two RBIs and four hits Carlie Stretch had three hits for Paw Paw.

In the title game, Cami VanderMeeden and Kailey Nichols helped Paw Paw build a 4-0 lead.

Clemons was the winning pitcher, allowing three hits and two runs over five innings, striking out four. MacKeller pitched two innings of no-run ball. Paw Paw had 14 hits. Stella Shaefr had three hits. VanderMeeden and Nichols had two RBIs apiece. Raegan Zach, Aliya Edson and Vanderburg had multiple hits.

"I'm just extremely proud of these girls," Paw Paw coach Mike Mottl said. "They've worked really hard all season and bought into the concept of playing for each other rathe than yourself early in the season. They all put the needs of the team above themselves and it shows on the field and to do this without any seniors on the team is pretty special."

Paw Paw was set to play Coldwater on June 10 in a state quarterfinal game.

"Coldwater hits really well and are coached really well too," Mottl said. "I feel like the only team that can beat us is us but they are going to be a really tough test."

South Haven celebrates divisional title

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Dave McWhinie and his South Haven baseball team celebrated a 9-1 record and first place in the South Athletic Conference's Lakeshore Division this season.

This is 17 seasons as the varsity head coach and McWhinie did 12 as the JV coach. The final record is 15-10.

"This season was an exciting one," McWhinie said. "We had a great group of guys as well as a talented group. They were a lot of fun to coach this season. Winning the Lakeshore Division of the SAC was definitely the highlight of the season. Beating Watervliet for the first time in a while was the big doubleheader to give us the opportunity to win it. We lost to their No. 1 pitcher in game one but had enough grit to move on from that loss and win the second game.

"While we would have liked to have a better showing in districts, this season met many of our expectations. Beating Watervliet and then clinching the championship during our senior night against Fennville (was top highlight).

We definitely had some disappointing games where we didn't play well. This team was very good about moving on from a loss and being ready for the next game with a good mindset."

There were many standouts on the team.

"Max Verseput was our top pitcher this season," McWhinie. "He was very good for us. He always gave us a chance to win. It usually just depends on whether we would score runs for him. He usually pitched against the other team's best pitchers. He also had a nice season at the plate.

"Elijah Eddy was our spark plug offensively. He was our leadoff hitter and did a great job of getting on base. He was a menace on the bases. Being fast and having great instincts made him dangerous. Eli was also a excellent infielder and pitcher for us this season."

McWhinie added

"Isaac Chalupa was our best hitter. He had a great batting average and also showed some power in the three-hole. He did a great job making a move to the outfield this season as well as being a solid relief pitcher. Charles Morse was an excellent all-around player for us this season. He did a great job on the infield as well as being our No. 2 pitcher this season. He ended up 5-0 in conference play. Charlie was one of our top hitters this year. He was a guy that could move a runner or drive them in.

"Jonathan Bevevino stepped up to take on the catching position for us this season. With very little experience, he worked hard to become a solid catcher and did an excellent job at the plate for us.:

Looking ahead:

"It will be tough losing this group of seniors but we have a solid core of juniors returning. I think next season should look pretty similar to this one. I think it will be a great group of guys willing to work hard and build off this season."

All-Lakeshore Division (SAC): Elijah Eddy-1st Team; Isaac Chalupa-1st Team; Charles Morse-1st Team; Max Verseput-1st Team. Jonathan Bevevino-Honorable Mention.

All-District: Max Verseput-Pitcher; Jonathon Bevevino - Catcher; Elijah Eddy- Infield; Charles Morse- Infield; Isaac Chlupa- Outfield

Academic All-State: Isaac Chalupa, Elijah Eddy; Jake Bosma Jonathan Bevevino

Jadon Schneider

Academic All-Region: Kamden Johnson, Charles Morse, Max Verseput

Academic All-District: Wyatt Dotson; Cooper Olney.

South Haven golfers second in division

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Allan Anastacio coached a South Haven boys golf team which was second in the Lakeshore Division and then finished third in the conference tournament.

"We were able to beat Saugatuck, who won the Lakeshore and came in 8th in state in Division 4, and our other rival Schoolcraft who came in 13th in Division 3," Anastacio said. "I feel like we could have won the Lakeshore division, but otherwise did really well this year. Cade Hahn was able to get top 10 at a strong tournament at the Medalist in Marshall. We have struggled there in the past and a lot of good players are at that tournament. It was our best performance in a regular season tournament in some time.

"We were disappointed that we didn't win the Lakeshore Division.

For South Haven Cade Hahn, Will Marcoux and Gavin Minton got all-conference honors while Rylan Jenks got honorable mention. Cade Hahn and Mathis Bray are graduating while Will Marcoux and Bryan Bevevino will be seniors next year.

Other returning varsity players are Rylan Jenks, Gavin Minton and Blake Slazek

"We should be able to compete for conference again, then hopefully improve enough to compete for state," Anastacio said.

Lawton golfer survives accident, finishes two rounds

By John Raffel
Correspondent

"The State Finals is over," Lawton golf coach Barry Shanley said. "Kaedon Miller finished 100 Friday and 96 on Saturday. However, he was the talk of the tournament.

"Heading up alone from Lawton to Grand Valley State Thursday morning he was broadsided, his car rolling over four times, and left smashed like a thin pizza. He was saved by his airbag. Still he made it to Grand Valley with his dad picking him up and he got a few holes of practice. Both days he was sore in spots but was determined to give it his best and had a lot of fun finishing his high school career at the State Finals."

Miller was an individual qualifier for the state finals. His total score of 196 puts him in 105th place. The first place golfer was Christopher Crockett of Shepherd with rounds of 70 and 75 for 145.

Miller had qualified for the state finals based on his performance in the regionals at Bedford Valley on May 28. Lawton had finished ninth place in the tournament. Miller shot an 83 for third. His teammates were Levi Brooks (98), Mateo Oertel (105), Mason Mayne (105) and Brody Camp (119).

Mattawan track coach happy with season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan track coach Jarrod DeGroff was pleased with what he saw from his team this season.

"We had a good season this year despite a crazy schedule with practicing in the parking lots, driveway, and at Paw Paw as our track and football field are redone. We had over 225 personal records achieved throughout the year and 48 entries to the Mattawan Top 10 All-time lists," DeGroff said. "Seniors Connor O'Rourke and Jack Nicey both broke the school record in the 200m dash with Connor slightly edging Jack with a time of 22.38 seconds. O'Rourke also now holds the 100m dash record with a time of 11.21 seconds. Junior Owen Fisher lead our distance team with some great performances placing in the top 5 all time in Mattawan History in the 800, 1600, and 3200.

"On the girls side, senior Tegan Kimble was a consistent scorer for us in the high jump, long jump, and 4x100 relay. Teagan finished her high school career tied for second place all time in high jump and second place all time in long jump. She also was the SMAC Champion in the High Jump. Freshman Claire Yakiwchuk lead our sprinter group with top 3 all time records in the 100m and 200m dashes and was a solid performer in the sprint relays. The Barron twins, Kate and Natalie had some great performances in the mid to longer distances with Kate leading the way in the 800 and Natalie running the top times on the team in the 1600."

Liam Bolt was the top discus throws for the team with a great start of 123-0, placing him eighth all time.

"Junior Carter Agustin was a new comer to the team but finished as our top shot putter reaching 40 feet in one of his last competitions of the season," DeGroff said. "Junior Kylee Drobeck and senior Aurora Winters paced the women throwers with Kylee reaching over 80 feet in the discus and Aurora increasing her distance from last year almost of four feet to a team leading 29-0."

Paw Paw girls soccer end strong season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's girls soccer team recently ended the season at 7-7-1.

The Wolves took on Niles for the first round of districts and fell behind 1-0. Paw Paw continued to apply pressure getting a free kick in the Niles zone. Isabella McCrossin fired a kick just under the crossbar, tying the game 1-1. Shortly after, the Wolves continued the offensive pressure and Leah Graves was able to get a foot on a loose ball to make it 2-1, final. Victoria Lopez and Zoey Bridges were the keepers.

The season ended in a 1-0 loss to Stevensville Lakeshore.

Paw Paw's soccer team earned All State Academic honors for a fourth year in a row.

Jose Patino served as Paw Paw coach.

Paw Paw had a 3-3-1 record for fourth place in the Wolverine Conference. Otsego won the conference at 7-0-0 while Plainwell was second at 6-1-1.

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Gobles track completes strong season

Also, bringing home hardware on Saturday was the 4x100m relay team of Nathan Ray, David Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield

Mason Mansfield kicked things off by setting a school record in the 100-meter dash.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Nathan Ray, Maximus Sager, Steven Juarez, and David Sager.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles' boys track team ended it season on a high noted on Saturday, May 31 when they traveled to Hudsonville, MI to compete at the Division 4 state finals.

Mason Mansfield kicked things off by setting a school record in the 100-meter Dash with an 11.14 (his previous best 11.23) and with that he qualified for the finals.

'With a great start in the finals he raced down the track to improve on his prelim time running 11.01 and placing sixth," coach Marc Kline said. "Great work and what a great way to end your high school career.

"Also, bringing home hardware on Saturday was the 4x100m relay team of Nathan Ray, David Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield. They finished 7th place with a time of 45.14."

Kline added:

"The 4x200-meter relay team of Nathan Ray, Maximus Sager, Steven Juarez, and David Sager added some outstanding state meet experience and look to make it back to compete next year."

Bangor soccer coach finishes fifth season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Antonio Robles finished a productive fifth season as Bangor girls soccer coach.

The team was 5-14-2 overall and 2-4-2 for fourth place in the SW10 Conference.

"This season marked a significant step forward for our program at Bangor High School. Although we did not achieve all our goals, we

exceeded several expectations and finished the season on a high note with a four-game winning streak," Robles said. "Despite some tough losses including a few matches that we felt we should have won, the team demonstrated tremendous growth

throughout the season. This young group tripled our total goals from the previous year, displaying the potential of our underclassmen

and laying a solid foundation for the future."

Standout players were as follows:

Madison Lennox (Junior – Captain)

"Madison led both on and off the field with maturity and skill. She scored six goals, and was perfect on penalty kicks, Madison, earned

Second Team All-Conference SW10 and All-District Team honors. Her leadership will be crucial next season as she returns for her

senior year," Robles said.

Andrea Barajas-Gutierrez (Freshman)

"Andrea had a breakout season, scoring six goals and adding 1 assist. Her performance earned her Second Team All-Conference SW10

and All-District Team recognition. She has great potential and will be a key player moving forward," Robles said.

Solexey Calderon (Freshman – Goalkeeper)

"Solexey made 121 saves and brought stability to our defense. Her efforts helped us improve our overall record. She also received

Second Team All-Conference SW10 and All-District Team honors. She will be a cornerstone of our defense next year," Robles said.

Isabella Macedo (Freshman)

"Isabella contributed 4 goals and 3 assists and was a major presence in the midfield, demonstrating strong decision-making and ball

control. She received First Team All-Conference SW10 and was named to the All-District Team," Robles said.

Madgaly Gonzalez (Freshman)

"Madgaly scored four goals and provided one assist, proving to be our most versatile player by effectively contributing in any position. She earned First Team All-Conference SW10 and All-District Team honors," Robles said.

Annalis Ramos (Senior)

"Annalis, with just three years of experience, was our most improved player this year and played a critical role in the midfield. She will be greatly missed," Robles said. "Looking ahead, the future is bright for Bangor girls soccer. Next season, we will return a strong core led by Madison Lennox, Solexey Calderon, Andrea Barajas, Isabella Macedo, and Madgaly Gonzalez. We will also welcome back promising players like Samantha Ogrodny, Isabela Marin-Hernandez, Keily Soriano-Ramirez, and Blanca Cruz, all of whom made valuable contributions this season.

"With the majority of our starting lineup composed of underclassmen, we anticipate even greater success next season. The growth

we've seen this year especially in team chemistry, scoring, and defense proves that this team has the drive and talent to compete at a

higher level. We are proud of what we have accomplished this season and look forward to what lies ahead."

Gobles softball ends with 23-7 record

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles softball season came to a close with a 23-7 record with a 13-2 loss to Mendon in the district finals.

Erica Barber took the loss for Gobles in the pitcher's circle, with 10 hits. Riley Johnson, Erica Barber and Daisy Jackson had two hits. Jackson had an RBI.

The previous week, Gobles was 2-0 in its district to winch title. The Tigers beat Marcellus 11-2 and Hackett Catholic Prep 7-5.

Jackson collected five hits in five at bats in the win over Marcellus. She hit a home run to center field in the third inning, singled in the first and singled in the fourth.

Erica Barber earned the pitching win, allowing five hits and two runs over seven innings, striking out five and walkingone. Gobles had 18 hits. Barber and Jackson drove in three runs apiece.

In the title game, Kylee Killeen was the winning pitcher allowing eight hits and four runs over 6.1 innings.

Barber pitched in relief. Offensively Barber had two hits. Killeen had three hits. Gobles had 11 hits overall.

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Bilingual
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Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church

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NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

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HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country Since 1894
SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call:
Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837 or
Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur • (269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study &
Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open
Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.•

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FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

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ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
SUNDAY Mass - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
SATURDAY 4 p.m.

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • 657-6441

DE TSMIA
Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • 624-4411

CAMPBELL MURCH CEMETERY MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • 668-3350

Adams FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-6347

ho
HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-4511

St JULIAN winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • 657-5568

BRONSON LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • 657-3141

PUBLIC NOTICE

Almena Township
SYNOPSIS
April 16, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held April 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and called to order by Supervisor Leduc.

Roll call: John Wagner, Kelly Redmond, Mark Roman, Tim Kloosterman, Sandra Rickli and Joe Leduc.

a. Motion to approve amended agenda
b. Motion to approve amended meeting minutes March 19, 2025
c. Motion to approve special meeting minutes of March 12, 2025 as presented
d. Disbursements approved in the amount of $157,551.08 for March 31, 2025 through April 16, 2025
e. Sheriff's Dept. report
f. Public comment offered
g. Reports by officers were presented
h. Motion to approve credit card processing/ on-line payments
i. Motions approved to amend short-term rental ordinance
j. Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-02 short-term rental ordinance
k. Motion to amend Resolution 2024-13 appointing ordinance enforcement officers
l. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-01 authorizing the Supervisor to sign on behalf of Almena Township
m. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 Almena and Paw Paw area Fireboard surplus payment guidance
n. Motion to appoint Tim Kloosterman to the Paw Paw Area Fireboard
o. Motion to approve Drozd applications
p. Motion to accept Trustee Patricia Denny-Diget resignation
q. Public comment offered.
r. Meeting adjourned 7:52pm

Sandra Rickli, Clerk, Almena T

State of Michigan, Probate Court, Van Buren County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. 2025-1085-DE
Estate of ROBERT EUGENE SPRUELL, Deceased

Date of Birth: July 18,1949 (7/18/1949)

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Robert Eugene Spruell, Deceased, died April 9, 2025 (4/9/2025).**

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cynthia Cheryl Angelo , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 3,2025

Attorney
JENNINGS LAW OFFICE, PC
James J. Riemaland #P41910
610 Ship Street, Suite 200
St. Joseph MI 49085
(269) 983-0551

Personal Representative
Cynthia Cheryl Angelo
2060 Maple Lane
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 591-0550

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Marcela Tellez; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 5/22/2025; Atty File #: 523981F01; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 26, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Marcella Tellez and Rene Tellez
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/ or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 9, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 15, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $323,123.01
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 15, Hall's Subdivision, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 41, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 33207 Bernice Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9504
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 22, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1562128

(05-22)(06-12)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kevin M Smith; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - Brock & Scott PLLC MI; 1st Pub: 5/29/2025; Atty File #: 25-12656; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Smith to American Advisors Group dated June 6, 2022 and recorded June 13, 2022 in Liber 1739 at Page 520, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $56,440.01. Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 19 AND THE NORTH 30 FEET OF LOT 20, FOWLER'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW. Being the same property conveyed to Kevin M. Smith, a single man from Michael T. Smith and Kevin M. Smith, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Fern E. Smith, deceased, Van Buren county probate Court File No. 20081133DE by Quit Claim Deed dated April 15, 2009 and recorded April 16, 2009 among the Land Records of Van Buren County, State of Michigan in Book 1517, Page 469 Instrument No. 3198477. Tax Account #: 80-41-200-019-00 Said property is commonly known as 209 S State St, Paw Paw, MI 49079. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: May 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-12656

(05-29)(06-19)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen; Atty: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: MI-005529-25; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen a/k/a Gerrit P. Oppenhuizen, the original Mortgagor; and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee; dated May 16, 2016, and recorded on May 18, 2016, in Liber 1636, at Page 341, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan; and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee; as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 7, 2019, in Liber 1687, at Page 614, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-One and 55/100 U.S. Dollars ($60,581.55). Said premise is situated at 11111 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055, in the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE 979.09 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 340.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 385.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 340.25 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST 385.28 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 05/27/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-005529-25

(06-05)(06-26)

STATE OF MICHIGAN 36th CIRCUIT COURT – Van Buren County, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079; 269-657-8200. To: ARNULFO VENTURA JOSE In Re: ALICIA SANTOS GONZALEZ v. ARNULFO VENTURA JOSE. Case No. 25-074580-DP.
TAKE NOTICE: A Request for Default Entry was filed on May 8, 2025, requesting the clerk to enter the default of Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend as provided by law and stating that the Defendant is not an infant or incompetent person or in the military service. The clerk approved the default entry on May 12, 2025, stating that the default of the Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend is entered. A Motion for Entry of Default Judgment was then filed on June 2, 2025, requesting the court to grant Plaintiff sole legal and physical custody of the minor child of the parties, award Defendant no parenting time, and reserve child support. A Motion for Special Determinations on the Issue of Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification was also filed on June 2, 2025, requesting the court to find that the minor child is under the age of 21, is made dependent on the 36th Circuit Court, her reunification with Defendant is not viable due to neglect and abandonment, and it is not in her best interest to be returned to her country of nationality. A hearing will be held on June 23, 2025, at 11:30 am before Judge Dufon to adjudicate the Motion for Entry of Default Judgment and Motion for Special Determinations. The result of a failure to answer or appear may be to bar or affect the person's interest in the matter.

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danny J Clendenin; Atty: ALAW - ALAW; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: 24-031214; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on July 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Danny J & Angelene Clendenin, a husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 13, 2012 Recorded on March 15, 2012, Book 1563, on Page 519. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine and 30/100 Dollars ($131,789.30) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County and described as: LOT 32, WOODHENGE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Commonly known as 22327 Woodhenge Dr, Mattawan MI 49071
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214

(06-05)(06-26)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: HEATHER GIBSON; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-005744; INSURER: GNMA
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JULY 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Heather Gibson, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated March 30, 2021 and recorded April 2, 2021 in Liber 1716, Page 408 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Fourteen and 20/100 Dollars ($123,014.20).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JULY 10, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
The Northerly 75 feet of the Westerly 150 feet of Lot 11, Block 6, Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records.
310 N John St, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: June 12, 2025
File No. 25-005744
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(06-12)(07-03)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at one o'clock in the afternoon on 17th day of July, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
The mortgage was made by MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. SIX, a Michigan limited partnership, MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. FIVE, a Michigan limited partnership, DECATUR PROPERTIES, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, GROW BLUE, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, K FARM HOLDINGS, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, THOMAS R. MITCHELL, as TRUSTEE of the THOMAS R. MITCHELL TRUST u/t/a dated August 21, 2000 and K HOG HOLDINGS, LLC a Michigan limited liability company (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated July 2, 2019, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, Michigan on July 12, 2019, in Liber 1686, Page 525 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.
As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Thirteen Million Thirty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight and 68/1000 Dollars ($13,031,878.68). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.
The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Townships of Bangor and Covert, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:
PARCEL 10: That part of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 17 West, described as: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Section 36; thence South 88 degrees 47 minutes 59 seconds East, on the North Section line, 1315.06 feet to the East line of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter; thence South 01 degree 11 minutes 32 seconds West, on same, 2626.49 feet to the East and West Quarter line; thence North 88 degrees 30 minutes 45 seconds West, on same, 657.53 feet to the East line of the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence North 01 degree 11 minutes 32 seconds East, on same, 1311.60 feet to the North line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 22 seconds West, on same, 657.53 feet to the West Section line; thence North 01 degree 11 minutes 41 seconds East, on same, 706.19 feet; thence South 80 degrees 37 minutes 39 seconds East 626.21 feet; thence North 09 degrees 53 minutes 01 second East 146.01 feet; thence North 31 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds West 298.06 feet; thence North 80 degrees 37 minutes 39 seconds West 485.11 feet to the West Section line; thence North 01 degree 11 minutes 41 seconds East, on same, 229.12 feet to the place of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-07-036-001-11
PARCEL 27: The West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 17 West, according to the Government Survey thereof. Tax Item No. 80-07-036-002-00
PARCEL 29: Beginning at the South Quarter post of Section 20, Town 2 South, Range 16 West, according to the Government Survey thereof; thence North, along the Quarter line, 443.2 feet; thence South 87 degrees 14 minutes West 632.9 feet to a line which is 24 feet East of and parallel to the West line of the East Half of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence South 0 degrees 06 minutes East, along the last described line, 414.98 feet to the South line of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 20 seconds East, along the South line of said Section, 631.4 feet to the point of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-04-020-013-00
Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee, a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all grain handling facilities and equipment, scales, crop dryers, grain storage facilities, elevators, augers, conveyors, power units, fuel storage, electrical controls and testing equipment with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.
Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all feed storage and handling systems, feeders, waterers, water handling systems and medication injection systems, manure handling and storing systems, farrowing equipment, pens, swine nursery equipment, ventilating, lighting and heating systems, auxiliary power system, electrical control systems with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.
Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all irrigation equipment, including but not limited to, pumps, gear heads, power units, water distribution and sprinkler systems, fertilizer and chemical injection systems, electrical systems and controls with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.
Mortgagor hereby further grant to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: "Fixture language" located on and affixed to the above described real estate. Feed mill together with all grinding equipment, tanks, containers, storage systems, mixing equipment, augers, conveyors, belts, pipes, material transfer systems, and related fixtures and/or equipment together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired. All fruit storage, handling, and processing systems, facilities, and equipment, including, but not limited to: cooling equipment, scrubbers, compressors, condensers, nitrogen generators, computers and computer monitoring equipment, packing line and packing related equipment and fixtures, together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired.
Together with (a) all the estate, title, interest, and rights of Borrower in the premises and all buildings and improvements of every kind and description now or later placed on the premises; (b) all of the rents, profits, and leases of the premises and the tenements, hereditaments, easements, privileges, and appurtenance with respect to the premises; (c) all goods (including furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances) and general intangibles now owned or later acquired by Borrower and now or later related to, affixed to, attached to, placed on, or used in any way in connection with the ownership, use, occupancy, or operation of the premises; (d) all of Borrower's rights, title and interest in, to and under all present and future land contracts, sales agreements or option agreements relating to the premises; (e) and all rights to make divisions of the premises that are exempt from the platting requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act, as it is amended.
Commonly known as: 67138 40th Ave., Bangor, MI 49013
P.P. 80-707-036-001-11 (Parcel 10); 80-70-036-002-00 (Parcel 27); 80-04-020-013-00 (Parcel 29)
Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale. If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: June 11, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
31802495

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at one o'clock in the afternoon on 17th day of July, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
The mortgage was made by MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. SIX, a Michigan limited partnership, MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. FIVE, a Michigan limited partnership, DECATUR PROPERTIES, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, GROW BLUE, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, K FARM HOLDINGS, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, THOMAS R. MITCHELL, as TRUSTEE of the THOMAS R. MITCHELL TRUST u/t/a dated August 21, 2000 and K HOG HOLDINGS, LLC a Michigan limited liability company (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated July 2, 2019, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, Michigan on July 12, 2019, in Liber 1686, Page 525 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.
As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Thirteen Million Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight and 68/1000 Dollars ($13,031,878.68). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.
The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Village of Decatur, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:
PARCEL 19: Lot 8, Block N of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records.
Tax Item No. 80-43-040-456-00
PARCEL 20: Lot 9, Block N of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records.
Tax Item No. 80-43-040-457-00
PARCEL 21: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block G of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records and formerly described as the following parcels: Parcel A: Commencing at the Northeasterly corner of Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records; thence Southerly, along the Easterly line of said Block File Number: 840865 G, 85.92 feet to a point 87 feet Northerly from the Southeasterly corner of said Block; thence Westerly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 99 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 85.92 feet to the Southerly line of Sherwood Street; thence Easterly, on same, to beginning. Parcel B: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot 2, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records; thence Southerly, along the Westerly line of said lot, 98.92 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 30 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 13 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 3 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, to the Northerly line of said Block G; thence Westerly, on the Northerly line of said Block G, to the place of beginning. Parcel C: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 1, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records; thence Westerly, on the Southerly line of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 and being the Northerly line of railroad land, 239 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 60 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 71 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 14 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 66 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 13 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 102 feet to the Easterly line of Block G; thence Southerly on same 87 feet to the beginning. ALSO Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Lot 1, Block G, said plat; thence Northerly, on the Easterly line of same, 87 feet; thence Easterly, at right angles, 2.7 feet; thence Southerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 87 feet; thence Westerly 2.7 feet to beginning. Parcel D: The Northerly 6 rods of Lot 3, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Parcel E: The Northerly 7 rods of Lot 4, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Except Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of the Northerly 7 rods of said Lot 4; thence Northerly 1.10 feet; thence Westerly 41 feet; thence Southerly 1.10 feet; thence Easterly 41 feet to beginning. Parcel F: The Northwesterly 14 feet of the Southeasterly 74 feet of the Southwesterly 30 feet of Lot 3, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Parcel G: The Southwesterly 25 feet of the Southeasterly 60 feet of Lot 4, Block G, of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Tax Item No. 80-43-040-375-00
PARCEL 22: Part of the Railroad grounds of the recorded plat of Decatur, Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street, which is South 56 degrees West 590.00 feet from the intersection of the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street and the Westerly right of way line of George Street; thence South 34 degrees East 179.00 feet, parallel to the Westerly right of way line of George Street, to the Northerly right of way line of the railroad; thence Southwesterly, along said Northerly right of way line, being along a 740.69 foot radius curve to the left 73.67, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 43 degrees 38 minutes 45 seconds West 73.64 feet; thence along said railroad right of way and a 713.05 foot radius curve to the right 189.27, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 48 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West 188.71 feet; thence South 56 degrees West 108.00 feet along the Northerly right of way line of said railroad; thence North 34 degrees West 69.72 along the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 315.00 feet parallel with the Southerly right of way of Sherwood Street; thence North 34 degrees West 150.00 feet parallel with the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 52.0 feet, along the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street, to the point of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-085-065-20
PARCEL 23: Beginning at a point in the Southerly line of Sherwood Street which is South 56 degrees West a distance of 150.0 feet from the intersection of the Southerly line of Sherwood Street and the Westerly line of George Street; thence South 34 File Number: 840865 degrees East, parallel with the Westerly line of George Street, a distance of 126.0 feet to a point; thence North 56 degrees East, parallel with the Southerly line of Sherwood Street, a distance of 150.0 feet to a point in the Westerly line of George Street; thence South 34 degrees East, along said line of George Street, a distance of 36.38 feet to a point distant 15 feet in a Northwesterly direction from the centerline of a track of railroad formerly of The Michigan Central Railroad Company; thence parallel with said centerline of track the following four courses and distances: South 55 degrees 13 minutes 15 seconds West a distance of 477.76 feet to a point, Southwesterly on a curve to the left having a radius of 740.59 feet the chord of which bears South 48 degrees 00 minutes 22 seconds West for a length of 186.04 feet, the arc distance of 186.53 feet to a point of reverse curve, Southwesterly on a curve to the right, having a radius of 713.05 feet the chord of which bears South 48 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West for a length of 188.71 feet, the arc distance of 189.27 feet to a point and South 56 degrees West a distance of 108.0 feet to a point in the Easterly line of Park Street; thence North 34 degrees West, along the Easterly line of Park Street, a distance of 69.72 feet to a point; thence North 56 degrees East, parallel with the Southerly line of Sherwood Street, a distance of 315.0 feet to a point; thence North 34 degrees West, parallel with the Easterly line of Park Street, a distance of 150.0 feet to a point in the Southerly line of Sherwood Street; thence North 56 degrees East, along the Southerly line of Sherwood Street, a distance of 492.0 feet to the place of beginning. EXCEPT part of the Railroad grounds of the recorded plat of Decatur, Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street which is South 56 degrees West 590.00 feet from the intersection of the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street and the Westerly right of way line of George Street; thence South 34 degrees East 179.00 feet, parallel to the Westerly right of way line of George Street, to the Northerly right of way line of the Railroad; thence Southwesterly, along said Northerly right of way line, being along a 740.69 foot radius curve to the left 73.67 feet, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 43 degrees 38 minutes 45 seconds West 73.64 feet; thence along said Railroad right of way and a 713.05 foot radius curve to the right 189.27 feet, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 48 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West 188.71 feet; thence South 56 degrees West 108.0 feet along the Northerly right of way line of said Railroad; thence North 34 degrees West 69.72 feet along the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 315.0 feet parallel with the Southerly right of way of Sherwood Street; thence North 34 degrees West 150.0 feet parallel with the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 52.0 feet, along the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street, to the point of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-085-065-10
PARCEL 24: Beginning at the intersection of the Southerly line of Sherwood Street with the Westerly line of George Street, in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan according to the 1905 recorded Plat thereof; thence Westerly, along the Southerly line of said Sherwood Street, 150 feet; thence Southerly, parallel to the Westerly line of said George Street, 126 feet; thence Easterly, parallel to the Southerly line of said Sherwood Street, 150 feet to the Westerly line of said George Street; thence Northerly, along the Westerly line of said George Street, 126 feet to the place of beginning, being a part of the West half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof. Tax Item No. 80-43-085-034-00
PARCEL 25: Lots 6, 5 and part of Lot 4, all Block O of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records, described as: Commencing at the Northeasterly corner of Lot 1 of said Block O; thence South 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, along the Northwesterly lines of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of said Block O, a distance of 406.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing metal building, 145.41 feet; thence North 56 degrees 07 minutes 24 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northwesterly of and parallel with the Northwesterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 50.08 feet; thence South 33 degrees 48 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and

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PAW PAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 23, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Paw Paw Public Schools Administration Building, 119 Johnson Road, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, the Board of Education of Paw Paw Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, will be available for public inspection during normal business hours after June 16th, 2025, in the Administration Building at 119 Johnson Road, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079.

The 2025 property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The proposed 2025-2026 budget will be an action item during the Special Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:45 pm at the Paw Paw Public Schools Administration Building.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Paw Paw Public Schools
119 Johnson Road
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-415-5200

Crown Castle Fiber, LLC is proposing to construct a 45-foot overall height small cell pole telecommunications structure located at 409 N Shore Drive, South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan (42° 24' 45.8" N 86° 16' 31.8" W). Crown Castle Fiber, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. 25-001562 JET

Mattawan Consolidated School
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET
Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 23, 2025 at 7:00am at the Central Administration Office Board Room, 56720 Murray St, Mattawan Michigan 49071, the Board of Education of Mattawan Consolidated School will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Central Administration Office of the Mattawan Consolidated School, 56720 Murray St, Mattawan Michigan 49071 (or by emailing pstermer@mattawanschools.org).

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.
Mark Noffsinger, MD
Secretary, Board of Education

CLASSIFIEDS

• HELP WANTED •

PART-TIME HELP WANTED
MILLER THERMOMETER CO.
14 S. Center Street, Hartford, MI 49057 • 269-621-3124

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

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(269) 375-4560
We are looking to employ:
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Full and Part-time positions available

MAYFLOWER DAIRY LLC
SEEKS ANIMAL SCIENTIST
(MULTIPLE OPENINGS) IN DECATUR, MI.
Qualified candidates must have Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, Agronomic Engineering, or related.
Housing benefit available.
Interested candidates should submit a resume & cover letter to HR, Mayflower Dairy, 588 3 Mile Rd NW, Ste 101, Grand Rapids MI 49544

• SERVICES •

GRANT DALY PAINTING:
Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING.
Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Frame thru finish, high quality, highly qualified carpenters. Call 269-903-6397.

• FOR SALE •

HIBOY ELECTRIC BIKE
Excellent condition. Step-thru, fat tires, $725. 269-491-9900. 269-216-3548.

ANTIQUE ENGLISH PUB SIGN TWO-SIDED with words, "Tom and Bedlam" on it; 1960s Maple table and chairs; also 48 inch round table with two leafs; modern desk chairs; sturdy metal shelves, 30 inches high and 42 inches high; old postcards and more. Wittes, 269-668-3574.

• SALES •

GARAGE SALES- WOODHENGE DR, Mattawan, 22118 June 12,13, 9 to 2; 22152, June 13,14, 9 to 4. Something for everyone.

BARN SALE 3 FAMILIES.
THURSDAY ONLY JUNE 12TH 8:00-4:00.
49962 CR 653. 1 MILE NORTH OF RED ARROW.
PAW PAW
COLLECTIBLES, SPORTS MEMORABILIA, ESTATE GLASSWARE, CHRISTMAS & EASTER & HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY. LARGE ANIMAL CARRY CAGE.

• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: **6/24/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw:** Cadey Neal, 65; Brooke Collins, 90/109.

TIM'S GRASS CUTTING SERVICE
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Full & part time positions available for direct care staff. No experience necessary. All training provided.
Please call **269-628-9099**
to schedule an interview or apply online
cornerstoneafc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 10

parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 28.23 feet to the South line of Lot 4 of said Block O; thence measured South 55 degrees 52 minutes 14 seconds West (record=South 55 degrees 54 minutes 25 seconds West) (plat=South 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West) along the Southeasterly lines of Lots 4, 5 and 6 of said Block O, a measured distance of 375.65 feet (record=375.20 feet) (plat=368.60 feet) to the Southwesterly corner of Lot 6 of said Block O; thence measured North 34 degrees 27 minutes 35 seconds West (record=North 34 degrees 19 minutes 25 seconds West) (plat=North 34 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West) along the Southwesterly line of Lot 6 of said Block O, a measured distance of File Number: 840865 174.65 feet (record=172.10 feet) (plat=172.92 feet) to the Northwesterly corner of Lot 6 of said Block O; thence North 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, along the Northerly lines of Lots 6, 5 and 4 of said Block O, a measured distance of 327.32 feet (record=326.60 feet) (plat=320.00 feet) to the place of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-040-470-01

PARCEL 26: Lots 1, 2, 3 and part of Lot 4, all Block O of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records, described as: Beginning at the Northeasterly corner of Lot 1 of said Block O; thence South 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, along the Northwesterly lines of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of said Block O, a distance of 406.00 feet; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing metal building, 145.41 feet; thence North 56 degrees 07 minutes 24 seconds East, along a line with is 5 feet Northwesterly of and parallel with the Northwesterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 50.08 feet; thence South 33 degrees 48 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 28.23 feet to the South line of Lot 4, said Block O; thence measure North 55 degrees 52 minutes 44 seconds East (record=North 55 degrees 54 minutes 25 seconds East) (plat=North 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East) along the Southeasterly lines of Lots 4, 3, 2 and 1, said Block O, a distance of 357.40 feet to the Southeasterly corner of Lot 1, said Block O; thence measured North 34 degrees 22 minutes 25 seconds West (plat=North 34 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West) along the Northeasterly line of Lot 1, said Block O, a measured distance of 173.00 feet (plat=172.92 feet) to the place of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-040-469-01

Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee, a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all grain handling facilities and equipment, scales, crop dryers, grain storage facilities, elevators, augers, conveyors, power units, fuel storage, electrical controls and testing equipment with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.

Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all feed storage and handling systems, feeders, waterers, water handling systems and medication injection systems, manure handling and storing systems, farrowing equipment, pens, swine nursery equipment, ventilating, lighting and heating systems, auxiliary power system, electrical control systems with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.

Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all irrigation equipment, including but not limited to, pumps, gear heads, power units, water distribution and sprinkler systems, fertilizer and chemical injection systems, electrical systems and controls with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.

Mortgagor hereby further grant to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: "Fixture language" located on and affixed to the above described real estate. Feed mill together with all grinding equipment, tanks, containers, storage systems, mixing equipment, augers, conveyors, belts, pipes, material transfer systems, and related fixtures and/or equipment together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems, and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired. All fruit storage, handling, and processing systems, facilities, and equipment, including, but not limited to: cooling equipment, scrubbers, compressors, condensers, nitrogen generators, computers and computer monitoring equipment, packing line and packing related equipment and fixtures, together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired.

Together with (a) all the estate, title, interest, and rights of Borrower in the premises and all buildings and improvements of every kind and description now or later placed on the premises; (b) all of the rents, profits, and leases of the premises and the tenements, hereditaments, easements, privileges, and appurtenance with respect to the premises; (c) all goods (including furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances) and general intangibles now owned or later acquired by Borrower and now or later related to, affixed to, attached to, placed on, or used in any way in connection with the ownership, use, occupancy, or operation of the premises; (d) all of Borrower's rights, title and interest in, to and under all present and future land contracts, sales agreements or option agreements relating to the premises; (e) and all rights to make divisions of the premises that are exempt from the platting requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act, as it is amended.

Commonly known as: 110 East Sherwood Street, Decatur, MI 49045

P.P. 80-43-040-456-00 (Parcel 19); 80-43-040-457-00 (Parcel 20); 80-43-040-375-00 (Parcel 21); 80-43-085-065-20 (parcel 22); 80-43-085-065-10 (Parcel 23); 80-43-085-034-00 (parcel 24); 80-43-040-470-01 (Parcel 25); 80-43-040-469-01 (Parcel 26)

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale.

If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Dated: June 11, 2025

GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000 32615012

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: RAYMOND E BIRMELE; ATTY: RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. - RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25MI00397-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, July 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Raymond E. Birmele and Diann M. Birmele, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Interactive Financial Corp, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded on February 24, 2009, in Liber 1513, Page 735, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was modified by Loan Modification Agreement dated January 13, 2022, and recorded on January 21, 2022, in Liber 1732, Page 133, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 11, 2016 and recorded January 14, 2016 in Liber 1630, Page 235, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Seven and 27/100 ($175,297.27) including interest at the rate of 3.12500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing on the East line of Haver Street, at a point 679.00 feet North of the East and West quarter line of Section 15, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, thence North on said Street, 117.50 feet to the South line of Hart Street, thence East on said street 148.50 feet, thence South 117.50 feet, thence West 148.50 feet to beginning Commonly known as: 100 HART ST, HARTFORD, MI 49057 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 12, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00397-1

(06-12)(07-03)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ROBERTA POTHOFF; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 520934F01; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Wayne R. Pothoff and Roberta J. Pothoff, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC

Date of Mortgage: July 1, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $354,601.00

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 142, Silvergrass, a site condominium, according to the master deed recorded in Liber 1611, Page 233, Van Buren county record, and designated as Van Buren county subdivision plan no. 132, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above described master deed and amendments thereto and as disclosed by act 59 of the public acts of 1978, as amended.

Common street address (if any): 25441 Forest Ln, Mattawan, MI 49071-9671

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: June 12, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1563855

(06-12)(07-03)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James Wilkins; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 6/12/2025; Atty File #: 25-001625-1; Insurer: (unknown)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): James Wilkins, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 17, 2012 Recorded on October 18, 2012, Liber 1574, on Page 330, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on April 21, 2022 in Liber 1737, on Page 97 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred One Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight and 01/100 Dollars ($101,128.01) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 6 OF GAGE`S ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF; THENCE WEST 132 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 229.02 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF BREEDSVILLE ROAD; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID NORTH LINE TO THE WEST LINE OF GAGE`S ADDITION; THENCE NORTH TO BEGINNING, THIS PARCEL IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 6, BLOCK 1, GAGE`S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, SAID POINT BEING DETERMINED BY A SURVEY MADE BY SMITH &, SMITH, INC., REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN LAND SURVEYING AS BEING 1110.12 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 9, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST; THENCE WEST 8 RODS; THENCE SOUTH TO THE CENTER OF BREEDSVILLE ROAD; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ON SAME TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID ADDITION; THENCE NORTH ON SAME TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 9, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF. Commonly known as 128 Bangor Rd, Lawrence, MI 49064 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1564121

(06-12)(07-03)

MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

June 12, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN'S DRAFT FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2025-2029 AND THE MICHIGAN CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Michigan is required to prepare a formal State of Michigan Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (the Consolidated Plan) for further funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Develoment. Michigan is required to prepare a Consolidated an Actual Action Plan. The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which needs will be addressed through five program years. The consolidated plan being proposed covers FY25 through FY 29 anticipated allocations. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing and soliciting comments from the public regarding the draft plan and its subsequent amendments.

The **comment period** will commence on Thursday, June 12, 2025, and end on Friday, July 11, 2025. **In-person public hearings** will be held at the MSHDA Lansing office, 735 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing on Tuesday July 1, 2025, from 1-2 pm and at the MSHDA Detroit office, 3028 W. Grand Boulevard 4-600, Detroit on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, from 1 -2 pm. **A special virtual public hearing** will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 from 5-6 pm via Microsoft Teams, Meeting ID: 235 535 525 234 7, Passcode: JP9or2Vi **OR** call in (audio only) +1 248-509-0316, 750 034 541#, Phone Conference ID: 750 034 541#.

Introduction

Prior to submission for further funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, Michigan is required to publish a five year plan document for public review and comment. The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which programmatic fund needs will be addressed and reflects activities for program years 2025-2029 beginning July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030. The plan consists of funding by applicable formula programs: HOME, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and all related programs including CDBG Disaster Recovery, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs (HOPWA), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), the Recovery Housing Program (RHP) as applicable, and the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing the five year plan, annual action plans, as well as the annual Michigan Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and soliciting comments from the public regarding the outcomes tied to the draft Plan and reporting outcomes on an annual basis thereafter. A link to the proposed draft five year plan can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/michigan-consolidated-plan.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments directly related to the draft Michigan Consolidated Action Plan. Information gathered during the written comment period will be used to substantiate a formal five year Michigan Consolidated Plan.

Individuals and organizations may submit written comments to Tonya Joy, 735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909. **Written comments must be received no later than July 11, 2025.** Comments can also be submitted to the MSHDA Consolidated Plan Coordinator via e-mail to mshda-cdbg@michigan.gov.

Copies of the Michigan Consolidated Action Plan may be downloaded free of charge from the MSHDA website link above.

Special Assistance: Feedback is encouraged from mobility-challenged individuals. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact the MSHDA Neighborhood Development Division at 517-335-2524 to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

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VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing to consider a Variance Request received from **Mattawan Townhomes,** for property located at **24279 W. McGillen Ave.,** requesting a variance from the Village of Mattawan Zoning Ordinance no. 63.

The variance, if granted, would allow for a higher density.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing on said request will be held on **June 23, 2025, before the Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:00 p.m.** in the Village meeting room at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The meeting will be held at the address below. Please send all written comments to:

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
offices@mattawanmi.com
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

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Paw Paw Man remembered as nation marks anniversary of D-Day

Paw By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

June 6 marks the 81st anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces launched the largest amphibious invasion. Over 156,000 troops stormed Normandy, turning the tide in World War II and beginning the liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe.

A Paw Paw man landed with the assault wave and paid the ultimate price while engaged in combat later that fall.

June 20 marks the 100th birthday anniversary of the late Staff Sgt. Russell A. Hindenach, Jr., United States Army. Hindenach was born in Paw Paw. He was a member of the Paw Paw High School Class of 1943. While in school. Hindenach participated in football, basketball, and golf. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts, a participant in school plays, and attended the Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church.

Following graduation, Hindenach planned to play football at Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo, but like so many others at that time, enlisted in the United States Army as a member of the 141st Infantry, 36th Division.

At age 19, Hindenach died Oct. 25, 1944, in Epinal, France, as the liberation of the country was almost complete. Posthumously, Hindenach was awarded some of his nation's highest decorations, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart medals. He was cited for twice having saved the lives of members of his platoon under hostile fire, including returning wounded platoon mates for needed medical assistance, though seriously injured himself.

Hindenach was buried in France. He was later returned to Paw Paw in 1947, where he is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Paw Paw.

Paw Paw historian and youngest brother of Russell, Robert "Butch" Hindenach, shared a letter from the brother he barely knew as Butch was only three at the time of his brother's death. The letter to their mom, Dorothy, read:

"Dear Mom, just time to drop you a short letter. Not very much time to write since we landed. I landed with the assault wave on D-Day and have been going strong ever since…the French give you all kinds of food, but you sort of hate to take it from them, because they don't have too much. These French people must have been through something." Love, Bub.

Butch Hindenach has 50 letters that his older brother wrote home. Some letters described his wanting to buy a convertible after the war. Many letters always asked about his baby brother, Butch, and his sisters.

One letter found Russell in a fox hole. "It read in part, "Just a little time to drop you a letter from my fox hole. I haven't had any time to write since I landed in France on D-Day."

Russell wrote a D-Day letter that read in part, "We left our boats at 5:30 in the morning and rode around in the water for about two hours in little, small landing craft. Each boat had about 35 men in them. The Navy and Air Corps were really pounding the shore with shells and bombs. At about 7:45, we started in, everybody was scared to death we all knew we were the assault wave and would be the first ones to hit the beach. The ramp opened when we hit the shore, my heart was really in my mouth. I expected machine guns and everything to open up on us when we landed but the Navy and Air Corps really did a good job and we didn't hit much."

Another excerpt from a letter said, "Our kitchens finally caught up with us. Yesterday and we had our first hot meal in 33 days."

"He was just a really good human being - never made it home," said Mark Hindenach, a nephew of Russell.

The Paw Paw High School Class of 1943 preserves his memory and that of classmate Henry Dawson with the Hindenach-Dawson Award, given annually to the outstanding male athlete in the senior class.

In January 2015, Russell Hindenach was inducted into the Paw Paw High School Hall of Fame for his service to his country.

Tapper Mustang Car Show features car once owned by Bob Seger

PAW PAW - A 1965 Ford Mustang, formerly owned by Detroit rock 'n roller Bob Seger made a visit to the 12th annual Tapper Mustang Car Show, held at Tapper Ford, Paw Paw, on Saturday, June 7.

Kaye and Dave Persell, of Charlotte, Mich., were one of approximately 180 Ford Mustang enthusiasts who took part in the car show.

The couple purchased the 2 + 2 Fastback on March 13, 2006, from Robert Clark Seger, aka Bob Seger. At the time of the purchase, the vehicle only had 4,270 original miles and was totally unrestored. The car was manufactured at the Ford San Jose Plant. The total sale price of the car in 1965 was $2,934.40.

"We could tell the car had sat for many years and may have not been driven because it had service engine vibrations," said Dave. After three years, through trial and error, working on the clutch and transmission, it was discovered that the real problem was that the car was "born" with the wrong flywheel.

Dave said the car has been a feature car at many car shows and events. It has been on display at the Dearborn Ford headquarters. In March of 2015, the car was featured on "The First Mustang" segment of the Velocity Channel show "Americarna" hosted by former Jeff Gordon NASCAR crew Chief Ray Evernham. The car has also been on display at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, MI.

Library Kicks off a Colorful Summer of Reading

The Van Buren District Library (VBDL) is making this summer colorful with the 2025 Summer Reading Program, Color Our World! The program officially launched on Saturday, June 7, at all VBDL branches with festive kickoff events and exciting activities for all ages.

Several branches hosted special celebrations to mark the occasion. The Antwerp Sunshine Branch in Mattawan held a Bike Rodeo, the Bloomingdale Branch organized a fun-filled Color Run, the Covert Branch featured an inflatable slide and free ice cream, and the Webster Memorial Branch in Decatur offered tie-dyeing and art activities to get the summer off to a vibrant start.

On launch day alone, nearly 400 children and teens signed up to participate across all Van Buren District Library branches—an enthusiastic start to a summer of reading!

The Summer Reading Program is open to all ages. Children and teens can earn prizes like books, snacks, and art supplies for every hour they read, while adults collect prize tickets for every book they complete. Each VBDL branch offers its own selection of grand prizes, so be sure to visit your local branch to see what's in store!

Summer Reading runs through Saturday, August 2, and the fun is just beginning. Check out the full calendar of events at VBDL.org.

Stop by your nearest branch, sign up, and help us Color Our World with the joy of reading! For questions about the Summer Reading Program, email info@vbdl.org or call 269-423-4771.

The Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles, Lawrence, and Mattawan.

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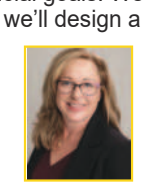

Grace A. Gant, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
179 W. Michigan Avenue
Suite 3
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-0047

Jay Doll, CFP®
Financial Advisor
816 E. Michigan Avenue
Suite 102
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-415-0136

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